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HIS  
MAJESTIES  
ANSWER

TO  
The DECLARATION and VOTES  
of both Houses of *Parliament*  
concerning HULL,

SENT  
6 May 4. 1642.



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the Kings most Excellent Majestic: And by  
the Assignes of JOHN BILL.  
MDCXLII.





His Majesties Answer  
To the Declaration of both Houses of  
Parliament concerning *Hull*, sent  
*May 4. 1642.*

**S**INCE Our Gracious Mes-  
sage of the 24. of April last  
to both houses of Parlia-  
ment (demanding Justice  
for the high, and unheard-of  
Affront offered unto Us at the Gates  
of Hull, by Sir John Hotham) is not  
thought worthy of an Answer; but  
that instead thereof they have thought  
fit by their printed Votes of the 28. of  
April last, to own and avow that un-  
paralleled Act of Sir John Hothams, to  
be done in obedience to the Command of  
both Houses of Parliament (though at  
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that time he could produce no such Command) and With other Resolutions, against Our Proceedings there, to publish a Declaration concerning that businesse, as an appeal to the People, and as if their intercourse With Us, and for Our satisfaction were now to no more purpose, though we knew this course of theirs to be very unagretable to the Modestie & Dutie of former times, and unwarrantable by any Precedents, but what themselves have made; yet we are not unwilling to joyn issue with them in this way, and to let all the world know, how necessary, just, and lawfull all Our Proceedings have been in this Point, and that the defence of these Proceedings, is, The defence of the Law of the Land, Of the Libertie and Propertie of the Subject, and that by the same Rule of Justice, which is now offered to Us, all the private Interest and Title of all Our good Subjects to all their Lands and Goods are confounded and destroyed. Master Pym himself tells you, in his Speech against the  
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the Earle of Strafford ( published by the  
Order of the House of Commons ) The  
Law is the safeguard ; The Custodie of all pri-  
vate Interests ; your Honours , your Lives,  
your Liberties, and Estates are all in the keeping  
of the Law ; without this , every man hath a-like  
right to any thing . And we would faine be  
answered , what Title any Subject of  
Our Kingdom hath to his House or  
Land, that we have not to Our Town  
of Hull ? Or what right hath he to his  
Money, Plate, or Jewels, that we have  
not to Our Magazine or Munition  
there : If we had ever such a Title, we  
would know when we lost it : And if  
that Magazine and Munition ( bought  
with Our own Money ) were ever Ours ;  
when, and how that Propertie went out  
of Us : we very well know the great  
and unlimited Power of a Parliament ;  
but we know as well , that it is onely in  
that sense , as we are a part of that  
Parliament. without Us , and a-  
gainst Our consent , the Votes of ei-  
ther, or both Houses together, must not,

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cannot,

cannot, shall not (if we can help it, for Our Subjects sake, as well as Our own) forbid any thing that is enjoyned by the Law, or enjoyn any thing that is forbidden by the Law, but in any such alteration which may be for the Peace and happinesse of the Kingdom, we have not, shall not refuse to consent: and we doubt not but that all Our good Subjects will easily discern in what a miserable insecurity and confusion they must necessarily and inevitably be, if Descents may be altered, Purchases avoided, Assurances and Conveyances cancelled, the Sovereign Legall Authority despised and resisted by Votes or Orders of either, or both Houses: And this we are sure is Our case at Hull; And as it is Ours to day, by the same rule it may be theirs to morrow.

Against any desperate designs of the Papists, we have sufficiently expressed Our zeal and intentions, and shall be as forward to adventure Our own Life and Fortune to oppose any such Designs,

signes, as the meanest Subject in Our Kingdom.

For the Malignant Party, as the Law hath not to Our knowledge defined their condition, so hath neither House presented them to Us, under such a Notion as we may well understand whom they intend, and we shall therefore onely enquire after, and avoid the Malignant Party under the Character of persons disaffected to the Peace and Government of the Kingdom, and such (who neglecting and despising the Law of the Land) have given themselves other Rules to walk by, and so dispensed with their Obedience to Authority: Of these persons (as destructive to the Common weal) we shall take all possible Caution.

Why any Letters intercepted from the Lord Digby (Wherein he mentions a Retreat to a place of Safety) should hinder Us from visiting Our own Fort, and how we have opposed any Wayes of Accommodation with Our Parliament, and what Wayes and Overtures have been



been offered in any way, or like any desire  
 of such Accommodation, or whether Our  
 Message of the 20. of January last ( so  
 often in vain pressed by Us ) have not suf-  
 ficiently expressed Our earnest desire of it,  
 let all the World judge : Neither is it in  
 the power of any persons to encline Us  
 to take Arms against Our Parliament,  
 and Our good Subjects, and miserably  
 to imbroyl this Kingdom in Civil Wars.  
 We have given sufficient evi<sup>d</sup>ence to the  
 World how much Our Affections abhor,  
 and Our heart bleeds at the apprehensi-  
 on of a Civil War ; And let God and the  
 World judge if Our Care and Industry  
 be onely to defend and protect The Li-  
 bertie of the Subject, The Law of the  
 Kingdom, Our own just Rights ( part  
 of that Law ) and Our Honour ( much  
 more precious then Our Life ) and if in  
 opposition to these any Civil Wars shall  
 arise, upon whose Account the Blood  
 and destruction that must follow must be  
 cast : God, and Our own conscience tells  
 Us that we are clear.

For Captain Leggs being sent heretofore to Hull, (though by the way, this is the first time we ever heard that he was accused for the practice of bringing up the Army against the Parliament, neither do we yet know that there is such a charge against him) or for the Earl of Newcastle being sent thither by Our Warrant and Authority, we asked a Question long ago in Our Answer to both Houses concerning the Magazine at Hull, which we have cause to think is not easie to be answered: namely the generall rumour of the designe of Papists in the northern parts, should not be thought sufficient ground for Us to put in such a person of honour, Fortune, and unblemished Reputation (as the Earl of Newcastle is known to be) into a Town and Fort of Our own, where Our own Magazine lay; And yet the same rumour be warrant enough to commit the same Town and Fort without Our consent to the hands of Sir John Hotham, with such a power as is now too well known

and understood. Now Our refusall to have that Magazine removed upon the Petition of both Houses, could give an advantage against Us to have it taken from Us; And whether it was a refusall, all men will easily understand who read Our Answer to that Petition, to which it hath not been yet thought fit to make any Reply.

For the Condition of those persons who presented the Petition to Us at York, (Whom that Declaration calls, Some few ill affected persons about the Citie of York) to continue the Magazine at Hull, we make no doubt but that Petition will appear to be attested both in number and weight, by persons of Honour and Integrity, and much more conberlant with the Affections of the whole County, then most of those Petitions which have been received with so much Consent and Approbation: And for their presumption of interposing their advice, we the more wonder at that Exception, when such encouragement hath been given, and  
thanks



thanks declared to multitudes of mean, unknown People, Apprentices and Porters, who have accompanied Petitions of very strange natures.

For the manner of Our going to Hull, We have clearly set forth the same in Our Message to both Houses of that Businesse; And for any intelligence given to Sir Iohn Hotham of an Intention to deprive him of his life; as We know there was no such Intention in Us, having given him all possible assurance of the same at Our being there; so We are confident no such intelligence was given; Or if it were, it was by some villaine, who had nothing but malice, or designe to fright him from his due Obedience, to warrant him. And Sir Iohn Hotham had all the reason to assure himself, that his life would be in much more danger by refusing to admit his King into his own Town and Fort, then by yeelding him that Obedience, which he owed by his Oathes of Allegiance and Supremacie, and the Protestation, and he well knew

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was due and warrantable by the Lawes of the Land.

For the number of Our Attendants (though that could be no warrant for such a disobedience in a Subject) it is well known (as we expressed in Our Message to both Houses, to which credit ought to have bin given) that we offered to go into the Town with twenty horse onely; Our whole Train being unarmed: And whoe soever thinks that too great an attendance for Our Self, and Our two Sons, have sure an Intention to bring Us to a meaner Retinue then they yet will allow.

Here is then Our Case (of which let all the World judge) we endeavoured to visit a Town and Fort of Our own, wherein Our own Magazin lay, a Subject in Defiance of Us shuts the Gates against Us, with armed men resists, denies and opposes Our Entrance, tells Us in plain terms, we shall not come in. we do not pretend to understand much Law, yet in the point of Treason, we have had much Learning taught Us  
this

this Parliament, and if the sense of the Statute 25.E.3.cap.2. be not very differing from the Letter, Sir John Horhams Act was no lesse then plain high Treason: And we had been contemptibly stupid, if we had (after all those circumstances of Grace and Favour then shewed him) made any scruple to proclaime him Traitor: And whether he be so or no, if he shall render himself, we will require no other Triall, then that which the Law hath appointed to every Subject, and which we are confident we have not (in the least degree) in these proceedings violated, no more then we have done the Priviledge of Parliament by endeavouring in a just way to challenge Our owne unquestionable Priviledges: For that in such a case, the declaring him Traitor, being a Member of the House of Commons, without Process of Law, should be a breach of Priviledge of Parliament (of which we are sure none extends to Treason, Felonie, or breach of the Peace)



against the Liberty of the Subject, or against the Law of the Land, we must have other Reasons then bare Votes.

we would know if Sir John Hotham had (With those Forces by which he kept Us out of Our Town of Hull) pursued Us to the gates of York (which he might as legally have done) must we have staid from declaring him Traitor, till pro-  
 cesse of Law might have issued against him: will feares and jealousies dispense with reall and necessary formes, and must we when actuall war is leavied upon Us, obserbe forms, which the Law it self doth not enioyne: The cause is truely stated, let all the world judge (unlesse the meer Sitting of a Parliament doth suspend all Lawes, and we are the onely Person in England against Whom Treason cannot be committed) where the fault is: And whatsoever Course we shall be driven to for the Vindication of this Our Priviledge, and for the Recovery and maintenance of Our known and undoubted

doubted Rights, we do promise in the presence of Almighty God, and as we hope for his blessing in Our successe, that we will to the utmost of Our Powers defend and maintain the true protestant Profession, the Law of the Land, the Liberty of the Subject, and the just Priviledge and freedome of Parliament.

For the Order of Assistance given to the Committees of both Houses, concerning their going to Hull, we shall say no more, but that those persons named in that Order, we presume will give no Commands, or Our good Subjects obey other, then what are Warranted by the Law (how large and unlimited soever the directions are, or the Instructions may be) for to that rule we shall apply Our own Actions, and by it require an account from other men. And that all Our good Subjects may the better know their dutie in matters of this nature, we wish them carefully to peruse the Statute in the 11<sup>th</sup> yeer of H. 7. Chap. 1.

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we conclude with Master Pym's own  
words: If the Prerogative of the King over-  
whelm the liberty of the People, it will be turned  
to Tyranny; If Liberty undermine the Preroga-  
tive, it will grow into Anarchy, And so we  
say into Confusion.

FINIS.





